

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. – 13. Cancelled.

14. (currently amended) A method for handling a ~~sample~~ plurality of samples in a multi-channel capillary electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

providing a plurality of samples ~~sample~~ located on a work surface, with each sample at a respective work surface coordinate, wherein the temperature of the work surface is controlled by a temperature controller;

simultaneously transferring at least two of the samples ~~sample~~ from their respective ~~the~~ work surface ~~coordinate~~ coordinates to a respective loading ~~well~~ wells not located on the work surface, wherein ~~the~~ each loading well includes a capillary ~~fixedly~~ positioned therein; and

injecting the ~~sample~~ samples from the loading ~~well~~ wells into the ~~capillary~~ capillaries.

15. (currently amended) The method of **claim 14** wherein ~~the~~ each work surface coordinate is defined by a respective sample well.

16. (previously presented) The method of **claim 14** wherein the loading well is located in a sample loading assembly.

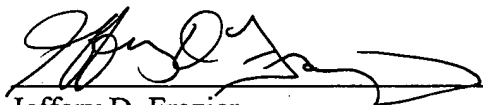
17. (previously presented) The method of **claim 14** wherein the injecting is performed by electrokinetic injection.

Fee Authorization and Request for Extension of Time

A Petition for a One Month Extension of Time is enclosed herewith. If any additional time extensions are required, such time extensions are hereby requested. If any additional fees not submitted with this response are required, please take such fees from Applied Biosystems Deposit Account No. 01-2213 (Order No. 4396D1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct 8, 2004



Jeffery D. Frazier
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,601
Telephone: 650-638-6722
Customer No.: 22896

Correspondence Address

Applied Biosystems
850 Lincoln Centre Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
Tel: 650-638-6722
Fax: 650-638-6677